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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,856	08/07/2001	Hiroshi Isoda	2936-0132P	8540
2292	7590	06/06/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			ELAHEE, MD S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2645	

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/922,856

Applicant(s)

ISODA, HIROSHI

Examiner

Md S. Elahee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to an amendment filed 12/22/04. Claims 1-6 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments mailed on 12/22/04 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,996,501).

Regarding claim 1, Sano teaches a constant gain amplifier [i.e., fixed-gain amplifier] circuit whose gain is not inherently controlled by a +Vcc voltage [i.e., AGC voltage] (fig.3, 7; col.2, lines 13-15).

Sano further teaches a variable-gain amplifier circuit whose gain is controlled by the +Vcc voltage [i.e., AGC voltage] (fig.3, 7, 13; col.3, line 65- col.4, line 10, col.5, lines 33-65).

Sano further teaches when the +Vcc voltage is within a predetermined voltage range, an overall gain of the AGC amplifier circuit is varied by the variable-gain amplifier circuit (fig.7; col.3, lines 48-57, line 65- col.4, line 10, col.5, lines 33-65).

Sano further teaches when the +Vcc voltage is outside the predetermined voltage range, the overall gain is kept constant by the fixed-gain amplifier circuit (abstract; fig.3; col.3, lines 6-16, col.5, line 47- col.6, line 7).

Regarding claim 2, Sano teaches a minimum gain of the AGC amplifier circuit is set to be equal to the gain of the fixed-gain amplifier circuit (col.5, line 57- col.6, line 7).

Regarding claim 3 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Sano inherently teaches feeding an identical signal to the fixed-gain amplifier circuit and to the variable-gain amplifier circuit (fig.7).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reasons for Allowance

6. Claims 5 and 6 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 5, the prior art Sano and Honda fails to teach, after having all the limitations, a satellite broadcast receiver apparatus comprising a first variable-gain amplifier circuit for amplifying a received radio-frequency signal, a mixer for performing frequency conversion to convert the amplified radio-frequency signal to an intermediate-frequency or baseband signal, a second variable-gain amplifier circuit for amplifying an output of the mixer, and an AGC voltage control circuit for feeding an AGC voltage first to the second variable-gain amplifier circuit and then to the first variable-gain amplifier circuit with a delay, wherein the

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second variable-gain amplifier circuit comprises a fixed-gain amplifier circuit, a variable-gain amplifier circuit, wherein, when an output of the variable-gain amplifier circuit exceeds an output of the fixed-gain amplifier circuit, the output of the fixed-gain amplifier circuit is delivered to an output terminal instead of the output of the variable-gain amplifier circuit, which is otherwise delivered to the output terminal. Claim 6 is allowed since, claim 6 is dependent on claim 5.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shibamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,647,072) teach Transmitting circuit improving SN ratio in low output power and CN ratio in low to intermediate output power.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Md S. Elahee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7536. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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M. F.

MD SHAFIUL ALAM ELAHEE

May 23, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fan Tsang', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600